

Hebrews (11)

Heb 12:14-29

Who likes mountain climbing or at least walking the trails? What are the two important mountains in the Bible? We will need to choose which one to climb.

But keeping with the racing theme of the first part of this chapter, there are some things that we need to pursue.

Personal preparation:

Vs 14-17. Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, no one comes short of the grace of God, no one be like *a bitter root springing up and causing trouble*, no one becomes an immoral or godless person

Be at peace with people, keep close fellowship with God, rely on the grace of God for everything, don't speak with bitter words, don't be self-centered. These just add a few more things to our discipline for the race. Are we ready?

Here is a description of mountain number one:

Vs 18-21. a burning fire and darkness and gloom and a whirlwind, and the blast of a trumpet and a voice uttering words such that those who heard begged to hear no more. For they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." In fact, the scene was so terrifying that Moses said, "I shudder with fear."

To me, there is nothing on this mountain that would make me want to climb. You?

Here is mountain number two:

Vs. 22-24. the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the assembly, and congregation of the firstborn, who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous, who have been made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood

Now here are some people I would like to meet and have some really personal fellowship. The longer we are together the better.

Mountain one is Mt Sinai. Fearful, anxious, doing, etc.

Mountain two is Mt Calvary. Peaceful, redeemed, fellowship, resting, etc.

I think you are aware that the writer of this book has been continually trying to direct our thinking in a special direction. And along the way there have been short little phrases to bring us to attention.

certain fearful expectation of judgment, terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. For our *God is indeed a devouring fire.*

So do we hear good? Are we going to choose to follow the special direction? Have we accepted the warning? Vs. 25-27. **we reject the one who warns from heaven?**

From the content of these chapters we understand that there is a special interest in getting people to give up reliance on the old and temporary Law and accepting the new and eternal life of Jesus.

The very Best has been prepared.

So since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us give thanks, and through this let us offer worship pleasing to God in devotion and awe.

It is time for worship that is pleasing to God and that will always start with salvation based on the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.